

Comics and Expository Writing!

A writing unit following the *Understanding by Design* instructional model
Developed by Leona Carr and Tara Potter

**Do your Elementary students struggle with writing, especially
expository or non-fiction writing?**

Are you struggling to motivate your students to write?

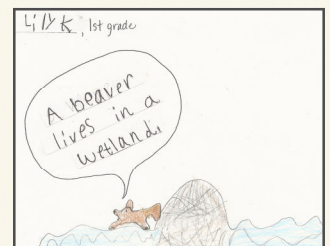
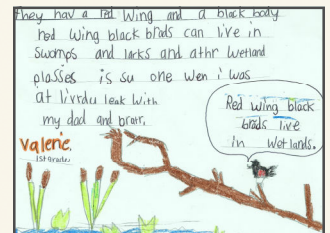
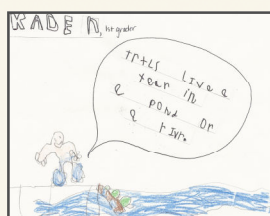
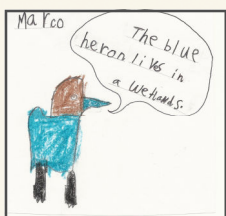
Our Comics and Expository writing unit gives students an opportunity to explore a non-traditional format of writing to explain important content area concepts. The unit is perfectly adaptable to your classroom needs. Here are some of the skills developed throughout the unit:

- How to clearly explain a concept through writing
- Exploration of comics to determine characteristics and text features
- Research skills
- Using the writing process to improve written work
- Choosing an appropriate publishing format
- Addressing audience while writing
- Self-reflection and self-assessment

Kids love comics! This unit not only motivates students to write, but helps them understand concepts across the curriculum- science, social studies, math, music, etc!

Washington State Grade Level Expectations (4th Grade) Addressed

- 1.1.1 Applies more than one strategy for generating ideas and planning writing.
- 1.3.1 Revises text by adding, deleting, substituting, and moving text.
- 1.5.1 Publishes in more than one format for specific audiences and purposes.
- 2.1.1 Applies understanding of multiple and varied audiences to write effectively
- 2.2.1 Demonstrates understanding of different purposes for writing.
- 2.3.1 Uses a variety of forms/genres
- 3.1.1 Analyzes ideas, selecting a narrow topic and elaborates using specific details.
- 3.1.2 Organizes writing using a logical organizational structure.
- 4.1.4 Analyzes and evaluates writing using established criteria.



Integrating Technology

There are a number of options for technology use throughout the unit to meet the needs in your classroom.

Possibilities include:

- Blogs
- Wikis
- ComicLife Software
- ReadWriteThink's ComicCreator
- And more...

To view the unit in its entirety, please visit our websites:

<http://tpotter533.wikispaces.com/> -or- <http://lcarr.wikispaces.com/>